

SEDAR 96: Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper SAFMC Meeting June 12, 2025

Christopher E. Swanson

FWRI Stock Assessment Group, St. Petersburg, FL



<u>SEDAR 96: Yellowtail Snapper</u> Data

https://www.sosuabeachdr.com/yellow-tail-snapper/

Updated Commercial Landings

Data

Results

- NMFS ALS (1981 1985); FL TTK (1986 – 2023)
- Predominantly hook and line gear
- Decreasing trend since timeseries high in 2017
- Chiefly from Florida Keys
 - 2021 2023: 97.9%, 94.0%, 96.8%
- South Atlantic region < 5%
- CV = 0.05 (1986 2023)



Projections



Updated Headboat Landings

Data

- SRHS (1981 2023); MRIP HB mode (1981 – 1985)
- Hook and line gear
- Variable but stable trend
- Chiefly from Florida Keys (Avg. 64%)
 - Southeast FL: Avg. 19%
- Recent increases in southwest FL region
- CV = 0.05





Projections

Results

Updated MRIP Landings

Data

Results

- MRIP-FES (1981 2023)
 - A + B1 fish
- Primarily hook and line gear
- Variable but stable trend
- Florida Keys and southeast FL regions
 - Similar since 2014
 - 98%, 90%, 90% (2021 2023)
- Private mode
 - Avg. 80%
- Avg. CV = 0.24 (1992 2023)



Projections



Comparison: Full SRFS and MRIP Landings

Results

Data

- State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS)
 - Ramsay et al. (2024)
 - 2021 2023
 - Avg. CV = 0.12
- Ratio-based calibration on historic MRIP private mode
 - 1981 2020
 - 0.625323 (numbers)
 - Avg. CV = 0.26 (1992 2020)
- 'Full SRFS' = SRFS and SRFScalibrated + MRIP charter + MRIP shore



Projections



Updated Commercial Discards

Data

- Alhale et al. (2024)
 - No longer recommend discard logbook data for estimating discards for SEDAR
- Discards
 - Discard rate (RFOP)
 - Total fishing effort (CFLP)
- Two methods
 - Florida Keys
 - SE and SW FL (data-limited)
- Avg. CV = 0.51



Projections

Results

Updated Headboat Discards

Data

- SRHS logbook
 - 2008 2023 (reliable)
 - 1981 2007 (proxy)
- 'Super-ratio' vs. 'SRHS-Mean' approach
 - Super-ratio influenced by unrepresentative trend from MRIP
 - SRHS-Mean recommended
- West region: 92.8%, 90.1%, 90.4% (2021 – 2023)



Projections

Results



Data	Results	Projections

Updated MRIP Discards

- MRIP-FES (1981 2023)
 - B2 fish (live releases)
- Avg. ~65% of total catch (A+B1+B2) since 2017
- 5.035 million fish in 2023
- Largely from Florida Keys and southeast FL regions
 - Avg. 97% (2021 2023)
- Private mode
 - Avg. 58%
- Avg. CV = 0.21 (1992 2023)





Comparison: Full SRFS and MRIP Discards

Results

Data

- State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS)
 - Ramsay et al. (2024)
 - 2021 2023
 - Avg. CV = 0.12
- Ratio-based calibration on historic MRIP private mode
 - 1981 2020
 - 0.547875 (numbers)
 - Avg. CV = 0.24 (1992 2020)
- 'Full SRFS' = SRFS and SRFScalibrated + MRIP charter + MRIP shore



Projections



Updated Commercial CPUE

Data

- Coastal Fisheries Logbook Program (CFLP)
 - 1993 2023
- Vertical line trips in southern Florida
 - Excludes trips in months during fishery closures (e.g., 2015, 2017, 2018)
- Stephens and MacCall subsetting
- Delta-glm (binomial, gamma)
 - Retained catch per hook-hr
 - Avg. CV = 0.04



Linked to the commercial fleet



Projections

Results

Data Results Projections

Updated MRIP CPUE

- MRIP total catch (A+B1+B2)
 - 1991(2) 2023
 - Avg. CV = 0.09
- Hook and line trips in southern Florida
 - Florida Keys (Monroe)
 - Southeast FL (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade)
- Hierarchical clustering analysis (Shertzer and Williams 2008)
- Delta-lognormal glm
 - Total catch per trip





Data	Results]	Projections

Updated Reef Fish Visual Census (RVC)





SEDAR 96: Yellowtail Snapper Base Model Results

https://happyinthekeys.com/things-to-do/fishing-in-the-florida-keys/the-secrets-to-yellowtail-fishing-in-the-florida-keys/

14

Data Results Projections

Total and Spawning Stock Biomass





Data Results Projections

Numbers- and Biomass-at-Age





Stock-recruitment





Data Results Projections

Fishing Mortality Rates







Stock Status: Not undergoing overfishing







Stock Status: Not overfished







SEDAR 96: Yellowtail Snapper Projections

https://www.saltwatersportsman.com/howto/fishing-for-snappers-in-the-bahamas/



Projection Scenarios

• Annually for five years using constant F

- F_{30%SPR} = 0.392 yr⁻¹
- $F_{P^*=0.40} = 0.386 \text{ yr}^{-1}$
- F_{current} = 0.263 yr⁻¹
- F_{75%_F30%SPR} = 0.294 yr⁻¹
- F_{40%SPR} = 0.248 yr⁻¹









Projections

Constant F Scenarios: Retained Yield (lbs.)

Results

Data



GMFMC and SAFMC Standing SSC Meeting Summary February 25 – 26, 2025

Results

Projections

<u>SSCs Consensus</u>: The SSCs selected an alternative approach from the P* approach in the ABC in the SAFMC control rule because of differences of how the uncertainty of OFL is characterized.

SSCs Consensus: The SSC used the arithmetic mean of the most recent five years of recruitment (2019-2023) for informing OFL and ABC projections. Using the arithmetic mean for recruitment can be interpreted to indicate a regime shift; however, for yellowtail snapper, the SSCs do not think a regime shift has occurred. The OFL is set at F30%SPR, and the ABC is set at 75% of F30%SPR, for the years 2026-2028, as derived from the provided projections for 2024-2028.

	OFL (F30%spr)	ABC (75% of F30%spr)
2024	5,076,490	3,955,300
2025	4,767,230	3,973,088
2026	4,495,187	3,925,031
2027	4,364,600	3,913,426
2028	4,307856	3,918,634

Catch limits are in lb ww.

Data



Thank You!